Management Area 6.2 - Semiprimitive Motorized Areas

Map:

Shaded area depicts Management Area 6.2. There are no Management Area 6.2 areas on the Huron National Forest.

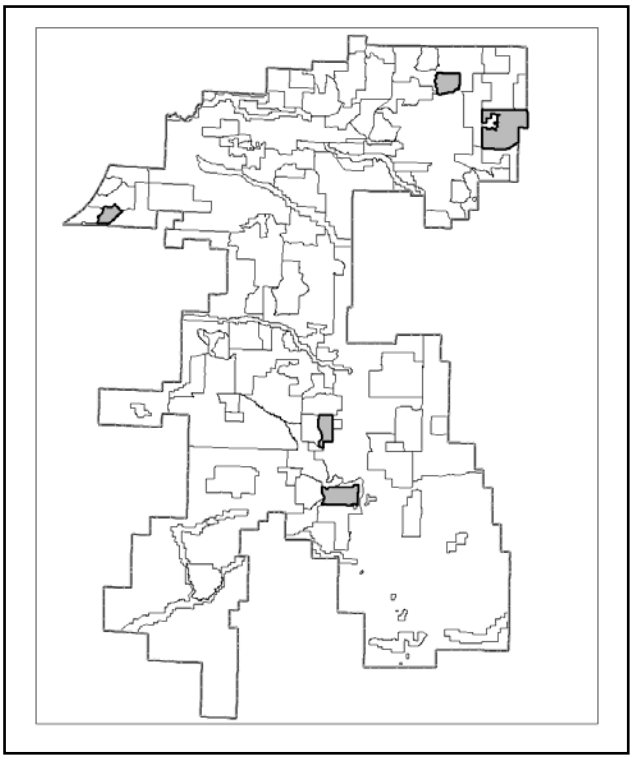

Figure III-12. Management Area 6.2 on the Manistee National Forest.

Purpose:

Management activities provide for semiprimitive, motorized recreational experiences. These areas provide high visual diversity, enhance and increase wildlife habitats, will reduce damaging wildfire potential, and provide moderate amounts of quality timber products from appropriate areas.

Landscape Description:

This prescription area occurs throughout the Manistee National Forest on well-drained, sandy plains; low, sandy hills; morainal hills and plains and low, wet areas. Rivers, lakes and their associated riparian zones also are found within this management area.

This prescription area contains approximately 2 percent of all National Forest System lands on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Table III-9 displays emphasis areas within Management Area 6.2.

Table III-9. Emphasis Areas Within Management Area 6.2.

Emphasis Area	Approximate Acreage	Location	Objectives
Deer	5,200	Huron-Manistee National Forests.	• Manage intensively to provide quality deer habitat with special emphasis on providing winter thermal cover.

Table III-10 displays semiprimitive motorized areas within Management Area 6.2.

Table III-10. Semiprimitive Motorized Areas on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Semiprimitive Motorized Area	Approximate Acreage	Location	Objectives
Briar Hills (southern block)	2,900	Manistee National Forest.	• Provide opportunities for hunting, camping, driving for pleasure, gathering forest products and hiking.
Loda Lake	4,000	Manistee National Forest.	• Provide for Karner blue butterfly habitat. • Provide opportunities for hunting, camping, driving for pleasure, gathering forest products, hiking, mountain biking and Off-Highway Vehicle use.
Nordhouse	2,200	Manistee National Forest.	• Provide opportunities for hunting, camping, fishing, driving for pleasure, gathering forest products and hiking.
Condon Lakes East	2,900	Manistee National Forest.	• Provide opportunities for hunting, camping, fishing, driving for pleasure, gathering forest products and hiking.
Brandybrook	5,200	Manistee National Forest.	• Provide for deer emphasis and wetland management. • Provide black bear habitat.

Goals and Objectives and Desired Future Condition:

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide high visual variety by providing vegetative diversity.
- Provide low to moderate volumes of forest products.
- Develop recreation facilities to separate competing users.
- Provide roads and trails for a semiprimitive, motorized experience.
- Provide habitat suitable for species requiring an old-growth environment.
- Provide high amounts of dispersed recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, viewing scenery, bird watching and canoeing.

- Provide low to moderate amounts of developed recreational facilities, such as campgrounds and picnic areas.
- Designated areas, roads and trails may be limited to specific kinds of uses.
- Management will strive to increase utilization of wood residues and other currently non-merchantable material, when not needed for resource concerns such as soil productivity and wildlife habitat, for fuelwood and other special forest products.
- Manage permanent openings and/or grasslands to meet species viability needs. Distribution of openings will recognize the contribution of adjacent private lands.
- Federal or state ownership of surface and subsurface is desirable.
- Provide opportunities for mineral exploration and development on a limited density.

Desired Future Condition:

The desired future condition of these management areas will be characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment. Each area usually contains more than 2,500 acres and ownership is almost entirely National Forest.

Human activities are evident but user interaction is infrequent. Users may be aware of controls, restrictions and services provided. Visitor services such as informational signs and orientation are provided. Facilities, utility corridors and mineral exploration usually are not evident unless viewed on-site. Low use roads are closed but evident. Some roads are converted to Off-Highway Vehicle trails. Roads needed for administrative purposes are gated. Other public agency roads may be present. Improvements on these roads are infrequent, and roads are maintained to minimal standards necessary for health and safety needs.

Dominant forest types are variable depending on the area and will range from northern hardwoods on morainal hills and plains to aspen, oaks, and red and white pines on dry sandy plains. Low, wet areas will be characterized by aspen, black ash, cedar, fir and hemlock. Stand distribution by age and size, across the landscape, is natural in appearance and dominated by old-growth characteristics.

Low, wet areas are key habitats for wildlife species. They provide thermal cover for deer and habitat for fish and water-related wildlife species.

Federal or state ownership of all surface and subsurface is desirable.

There are approximately 11,000 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Standards and Guidelines:

1900 PLANNING

I Vegetation Management

A Limit vegetation management to improving visual quality; reducing hazard fuels, pest management and fuelbreaks, or maintaining diversity of wildlife habitats. **G**

2300 RECREATION, WILDERNESS AND RELATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I Recreation Construction Sites

A Hike-in camping units will be at least 100 feet from any adjacent camping units. G

2400 TIMBER MANAGEMENT

I The following Standards and Guidelines apply to both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural systems.

A Uneven-aged- and even-aged systems will be used. They will be consistent with area management objectives and the following restrictions:

1 Even-aged management will be the primary silvicultural system used. G

2 Allow thinning red pine plantations. G

3 The uneven-aged system will normally be used only in northern hardwoods. G

4 Seasonal restrictions on time of entry for timber harvests may be applied to protect other resources, activities and facilities. G

5 Standard cutting methods such as single-tree and group selection, shelterwood, seed-tree and clearcutting may be used. S

6 Silvicultural standards will incorporate genetic improvement principles, practices and programs. G

7 Regeneration activities:

a Site preparation activities can include mechanical, prescribed fire, hand and chemical. G

b For revegetation, use native vegetative species for timber production purposes. Revegetation activities can include natural–preferred–artificial or seeding methods. G

c Fertilization may be used to establish vegetation on disturbed areas. Manage use of fertilizers or soil enrichments to prevent movement into lakes and streams. G

II The following Standards and Guidelines apply only to the even-aged silvicultural system:

A Temporary openings created by the application of the even-aged silvicultural system:

1 Will be separated by a stand of at least 10 acres, except in wildlife emphasis areas. G

2 Generally should be 20 acres or less. G

3 In deer emphasis areas, temporary openings created by even-aged management will generally not exceed 15 acres, except they may be as large as 40 acres in G

major deer wintering or adjacent areas, or for golden-winged warbler they may be 25 acres.

B Firewood gathering may be allowed except in old growth areas. A permit is required. G

C Intermediate treatment guidelines include:

1 Using mechanical, chemical or hand release methods in all vegetative types. G

2 Pruning for timber, visual improvement, safety and wildlife. G

3 Thinning. G

4 Using precommercial thinning to maintain winter thermal cover for deer in lowland hardwood and conifer types. G

D Harvest guidelines include the following: (See Appendix B for a discussion of each harvest method):

1 The clearcutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; oak; aspen; lowland conifers and northern hardwoods with adequate advanced regeneration. G

2 The seed-tree cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines and lowland conifers; and G

3 The shelterwood cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; all oak; northern hardwoods; lowland conifers and lowland hardwoods. G

E Allow commercial thinning in all vegetative types. Precommercial thinning in all types is allowed if necessary to meet objectives of timber, wildlife and/or visual quality objectives. G

2600 WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

I General Management

A Dry Grasslands G

1 Manage dry grassland habitat, 250 acres or larger in landtype associations 1 and 2. Manage multiple habitats as blocks when they are within one mile of each other to increase suitability. G

B Provide for waterhole development or restoration when surface runoff and soil conditions permit. G

II Endangered and Threatened Species

A See Chapter II, 2600 for Standards and Guidelines.

III Regional Forester Sensitive Species

A Standards and Guidelines for the management of Regional Forester Sensitive Species are:

1 Within core northern hardwood habitat areas:

a In 80 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood (ginseng) habitat:

1 Permit non-ground disturbing G

activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes common to this habitat.

2 Permit maintenance of existing improvements. G

b In the remaining 20 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood habitat: G

1 Maintain 80 percent crown closure. G

2 Allow potential high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat adjacent to core areas to convert to actual high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat. G

3 New motorized trails will not be constructed in cedar swamps, hardwood conifer swamps and subirrigated forests unless there are no other reasonable routes. G

B Manage wetlands identified as good and excellent sandhill crane nesting habitat to improve habitat conditions for this species. G

C Develop and implement management direction for each osprey nesting area and great blue heron colony. G

D Cerulean Warbler

1 Timber management and road construction activities should not occur in occupied habitat within 400 feet of a cerulean warbler nest tree, approximately a 10-acre area, during the breeding season. G

IV Wildlife Emphasis Areas

A Manage recognized deer yards outside old growth areas to provide a sustained supply of winter thermal cover and associated browse. G

2700 SPECIAL USES MANAGEMENT

I Decisions for special uses involving National Forest System lands will be made on an individual basis. G

II Adhere to the Federal Power Act Section 4(e) Forest Service Conditions on the eight hydro-electric projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. S

III Do not allow developed organizational camps. G

IV Discourage utility transmission corridors. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis. G

2800 MINERALS AND GEOLOGY

I Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Wildlife

B Karner Blue Butterfly

1 Federal oil and gas leases will contain a lease notice that the lands are identified as Karner blue butterfly metapopulation areas and occupancy is subject to S

more restrictive controls than routine areas.

2 Access to oil and gas development is by low standard road with minimum clearing. These roads are gated. The access road should be obliterated upon abandonment of the site. G

II Mineral Exploration and Development

A General oil and gas development conditions:

1 Production facilities are outside the area when reasonable. G

2 Needed pumps are run by electric motors or equipped to minimize noise. G

III Common Variety Minerals

A Use of common variety mineral deposits will be considered with the following limitations: G

1 Restricted to isolated, well-screened areas, subject to the environmental limitations of the site. G

IV Federal oil and gas leases will contain a controlled surface use stipulation with a maximum surface development density of 1 surface location per 160 acres. G

5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT

I Suppression

A Minimize use of tractor plows, retardant, constructed helispots and wheeled vehicles. G

II Fire Use and Fuels Treatment

A Constructed fuel barriers will be no longer than eight miles in length and temporary or permanent openings will be limited to no more than 500 acres. G

III Activity fuels–slash–will be treated to a level commensurate with the allowable fire intensity and rate of spread that meets resource objectives in established prescriptions. Treatment along highways and adjacent properties will meet applicable state laws. G

IV Management action to address high fuel hazards may occur in old growth when public safety and property are at risk. G

7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

I Forest Service roads may be closed to motorized vehicles to retain the semiprimitive character of the area or for emergency conditions, seasonal closures, resource protection or public safety. G

II Oil and Gas

A All temporary roads will be planned and constructed to be revegetated within one year of termination of contract, lease or permit. G

B Roads will be designed and constructed to transport forest products and accommodate planned motorized recreation use. G